Chancellor Ludwig Erhard (CDU) 1963-66

Erhard’s reputation as father of economic miracle—allowed him to make coalition with FDP

Considered a relative failure:

- Adenauer was bitter and ungracious—irritating Erhard
- Left-wing student radicalism—showing a new political generation
- Emergence of the National Democratic party (NDP)—founded 1964—Neo Nazis
- Erhard wanted to reunify Germany; USA disagreed.

Erhard proposed a package in Oct 1966 to tackle the 1965 economic recession—was rejected by FDP coalition:

- 700k unemployed, population remembered the past.
- Wanted tax increase, extra hour of work—FDP and trade unions hated
- Germans had to avoid economic crisis—1923, 1929-32
- Caused FDP ministers to resign—Coalition broke apart

Factors for Erhard’s resignation:

- Damaged legacy
- Spiegel affair
- Left wing criticism
- Right wing resurgence

Resigned Nov 1966—replaced by the Grand Coalition (CDU, CSU, SPD)

SPD showing the start of a new political era
Extra-parliamentary Opposition

General Causes:

- FRG failure to denazified
- NATO led to nuclear weapons on German soil
- Vietnam war involvement by FRG
- Equality

1950s:

Little opposition in parliament, “Ohne Mich” attitudes, good living standards, re construction law

1960s:

Particular causes:

- Trial of Auschwitz guard 1963-65, Israel 1960- Eichmann trials- SS leader
- Left wing newspaper- Der Spiegel, Die Zeit, Der Stern
- Shooting student protestor- Benno Ohnesborg in June 1967 caused opposition
  - Caused when Shah of Tehran visited, Iran leader
- Emergency laws 1968
- Overcrowded, outdated unis- Free uni of berlin
- Grand coalition- held 90% seats, one party state, so young had to use other form of opp

- Left wing student protests:
  - Questioned the values of the state and of their parents- Nazi era
  - Why they protested:
    - Expansion in higher education led to overcrowding, poor teaching, right-wing bias
    - Wanted equality for all, regardless of race or gender
    - Anti- Vietnam war protests in US manifested in W Germany
  - Criticised US failure to stop Berlin divide
  - Students encouraged that people could be changed by people- permanent change came from protest

- 1968: Baader and Enslinn fired- bomb 2 stores.
- The NPD
  - Failed to make any significant electoral breakthrough
  - 1969- failed to get 5% vote
- APO (opposition outside of parliament)
  - Loose alliance of students, trade unionists, intellectuals
  - Aim to protest to make Germany a more open and free society- against the domination of SPD CDU grand coalition
  - Protested against the emergency laws formed May 1968
  - Died out towards late 1960s, some went to SPD, DKP or terrorism (RAF)

- SDS
  - German socialist student’s union- expelled from SPD in 1962
  - Campaigned against Vietnam and possession of nuclear weapons
  - 1967- A student, Benno Ohnesborg shot by police officer, leading to violent protests
    - Eventually caused decline as some turned to extremism
  - Rudi Dutschke- SDS leader was shot in 1968 by Josef Bachmann, anti- communist
    - Symbolic of the deep left- wing student disillusionment with the politics of the day, SDS blamed anti-student articles appearing right wing Springer press.
    - Axel Springer Press- printed Bild and Die Welt, attacked the student movement in 60s.